

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending.

Various of the claims are amended herein, simply to clarify claim recitations. Support for the amendments is found, for example, in FIGS. 5 and 6 of the present application.

I REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6, 9-13 AND 16-20 UNDER 35 USC 102(E) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY TANIGUCHI (US PATENT NO. 6,484,137)

As recited, for example, in claim 1, a data reproduction device for reproducing compressed multimedia data, including audio data, comprises (a) an extraction unit extracting a frame, which is unit data of the audio data; (b) a speed conversion unit speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame prior to decoding of the audio data or with the audio data compressed; (c) a decoding unit decoding the speed converted frame ; and (d) a reproduction unit reproducing audible sound represented by the audio data from the decoded frame.

Please note that claim 1 is amended to clarify this operation. See, for example, FIGS. 5 and 6 of the present application.

The Examiner asserts that FIGS. 14 and 26 of Taniguchi disclose a speed conversion unit thinning out a frame or repeatedly outputting the frame *prior to decoding of the audio data or with the audio data compressed*.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the portions of Taniguchi cited by the Examiner relate to a process which is performed *after decoding of an audio signal*.

For example, in FIG. 14 of Taniguchi, the first operation performed on the MPEG audio bitstream is by frame unpacking means 101 which is described at column 11, lines 25-33 and column 25, lines 18-23 as separating a frame into its component parts. This unpacking operation in Taniguichi includes decompressing the data, since the output of frame unpacking means 101 is requantized by requantization means 102. It is respectfully submitted that the expansion/compression frequency control means having reference numeral 12-1-2 in the FIG. 14 of Taniguichi, and which the Examiner correlates to a speed conversion unit of embodiments of the present invention, does not operate on a frame of audio, but rather receives "speed rate information" as in input, as shown in FIG. 14 of Taniguichi.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the portions of Taniguchi relied upon by the Examiner describe a process *after decoding of the audio signal*.

It is respectfully submitted that Taniguchi does not teach or suggest a speed conversion unit speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame *prior to decoding of the audio data or with the audio data compressed* as recited, for example, in claim 1.

Generally, the above-described arguments were presented in the Amendment filed July 26, 2005. However, in the last paragraph on page 7 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the applicant has misinterpreted Taniguchi. The Examiner also includes a detailed discussion of Taniguchi in item 8 on pages 6-8 of the outstanding Office Action.

In view of the Examiner's comments in the outstanding Office Action, the applicant has again reviewed Taniguchi. However, it is respectfully submitted that the applicant cannot find appropriate description in Taniguchi to indicate that the operation of Taniguchi is prior to decoding, as asserted by the Examiner.

With reference to the description of the eighth embodiment of Taniguchi, which relates to FIGS. 14 and 26 of Taniguchi, the applicant interprets that the scalefactor relates to coding. With reference to FIG. 26, linear quantization is performed after the extraction of scalefactor. In the reproduction side, also, decoding side information is input to the re-quantization block in the reproduction side. Therefore, the quantization and the re-quantization correspond to coding and decoding, respectively.

In addition, although it is described that "frame unpacking means" in Taniguchi separates the header, the bit allocation information, the scalefactor index, the scalefactor selection information, and the sample data information, the applicant considers that the description simply indicates the retrieval of data necessary for decoding the MPEG data. According to FIG. 14 in Taniguchi, the speed conversion process varying frame cycle is performed in data expanding/compressing means 103 via the expansion/compression frequency control means 12-1-2. Therefore, the process described in Taniguchi is a process after re-quantization, or after decoding.

Further, by a comparison of FIGS. 5 and 6 of the present application to FIG. 14 of Taniguchi, it is respectfully submitted that the overall operation of the present invention, and the ordering of the operations, as recited, for example, in the amended claim 1, is significantly different than that disclosed in Taniguchi.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Taniguchi does not teach or suggest a speed conversion unit speed converting the extracted frame by thinning out the extracted frame or repeatedly outputting the extracted frame prior to decoding of the audio data or with the audio data compressed as recited, for example, in claim 1.

Please note that claims 2, 9, and 16 recite that the thinning out is performed "prior to decoding of the audio data or with the audio data compressed". Taniguchi does not disclose or suggest such features.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7-8, 14-15 AND 21-22 UNDER 35 USC 103
AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER TANIGUCHI IN VIEW OF
OKADA (US PATENT NO. 5,809,454)

The above comments for distinguishing over Taniguchi also apply here, where appropriate.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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